

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-16 (Cancelled)

17. (New) Device for coiling a windable long, metal product, comprising a mandrel having a substantially circular transverse section and rotating around a horizontal, vertical or inclined axis, a containing element to contain said metal product, arranged in correspondence with said mandrel and substantially orthogonal to said axis, and at least a guide and containing device able to be driven between a first working position in which said guide and containing device cooperates with said mandrel, and a second inactive position in which said guide and containing device is arranged distant from said mandrel, wherein said containing element comprise an annular channel which is made in proximity with an outer surface of said mandrel and is coaxial with the axis of rotation of said mandrel, and wherein said guide and containing device comprises a groove that is able to define an accompanying guide for said metal product along an outer circumference of said mandrel towards said annular channel and coaxial with said annular channel, when said guide and containing device is in said first working position.

18. (New) Device as in claim 17, wherein said annular channel has a substantially rectangular transverse section.

19. (New) Device as in claim 17, wherein said annular channel has a substantially trapezoid section.

20. (New) Device as in claim 17, wherein said guide and containing device comprises at least a first flap.

21. (New) Device as in claim 20, wherein said guide and containing device comprises a second flap arranged diametrically opposite said first flap.

22. (New) Device as in claim 21, wherein said first and second flap constitute, in said first working position, a lateral cover to said annular channel.

23. (New) Device as in claim 17, wherein a flange is applied on said containing element substantially perpendicular to said mandrel and shaped so as to have an annular tooth substantially coaxial with said mandrel, said annular tooth defining at the lower part said annular channel.

24. (New) Device as in claim 23, wherein said annular tooth is slightly convergent towards the outside.

25. (New) Device as in claim 23, wherein said annular tooth has a thickness substantially equal to the diameter of said metal product, or to a multiple thereof.

26. (New) Device as in claim 23, wherein the protrusion of said annular tooth is substantially equal to a value of between 1.5 and 2 times the diameter of said metal product.

27. (New) Device as in claim 23, wherein said flange is interchangeable according to the size of said metal product.

28. (New) Device as in claim 23, wherein said flange is made of material of great hardness.

29. (New) Method for coiling a long metal product, performed by means of a coiling device which comprises a mandrel having a substantially circular transverse section and rotating around a horizontal, vertical or inclined axis, an containing element to contain said metal product, arranged at one end of said mandrel and substantially orthogonal to said axis, and at least a guide and containing device, able to be driven between a first working position in which said guide and containing device cooperates with said mandrel, and a second

inactive position in which said guide and containing device is arranged distant from said mandrel, said method comprising the following steps:

- a first step wherein a leading end of said metal product is inserted into a groove of said guide and containing device arranged in said first working position to guide said metal product along an outer circumference of said mandrel;
- a second step wherein said metal product is guided by said groove inside an annular channel made on said containing element in proximity with an outer surface of said mandrel and coaxially with said axis of rotation of said mandrel;
- a third step wherein an initial segment of said metal product is gripped and clamped in said annular channel by means of friction forces generated between said metal product and the walls of said annular channel;
- a fourth step wherein said metal product is wound onto said mandrel for a pre-determined segment of length;
- a fifth step wherein said guide and containing device is taken from said first working position to said second inactive position; and
- a sixth step wherein said metal product is wound for the remainder of its length.

30. (New) Method as in claim 29, wherein during said first step, said metal product is inserted into said groove by means of a distributor of said metal product.

31. (New) Method as in claim 30, wherein during said first step, said mandrel is in rotation around its own axis.

32. (New) Method as in claim 29, wherein said segment of pre-determined length is between a fraction of one spiral and three spirals.